AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1 - 52 (Cancelled)

53. **(Currently amended)** A membrane localization reagent for directing a molecule to an outer membrane of a cell, wherein the membrane localization reagent is soluble and comprises:

(1) **[[a]] at least one** lipophilic binding element comprising aliphatic acyl groups;

(2) a hydrophilic peptide binding element comprising basic amino acids, wherein the hydrophilic binding element is bound to the lipophilic element; and

(3) a linker **that [[for]]** covalently ~~**binding**~~ **binds** the molecule to the hydrophilic peptide binding element of the membrane localization reagent.

54. (Previously presented) The membrane localization reagent of claim 53, wherein the hydrophilic peptide binding element comprises lysine residues.

55. (Previously presented) The membrane localization reagent of claim 54, wherein the hydrophilic peptide binding element comprises three to ten lysine residues.

56. (Previously presented) The membrane localization reagent of claim 54, wherein the hydrophilic peptide binding element comprises four to seven lysine residues.

57. (Previously presented) The membrane localization reagent of claim 53, wherein the hydrophilic peptide binding element comprises arginine residues.

59. (Previously presented) The membrane localization reagent of claim 58, wherein the hydrophilic peptide binding element comprises four to seven arginine residues.

60. **(Currently amended)** ~~**The**~~ **A** membrane localization reagent ~~**of claim 53, for**~~ **directing a molecule to an outer membrane of a cell, wherein the membrane localization reagent is soluble and comprises a** ~~**wherein the**~~ hydrophilic peptide binding element**, wherein the peptide comprises a sequence** **[[is]]** selected from the group consisting of:

(a) DGPKKKKKKSPSKSSG (SEQ ID NO. 37);

(b) GSSKSPSKKKKKKPGD (SEQ ID NO. **[[39]]38**);

(c) SPSNETPKKKKKRFSFKKS**[[S]]**G (SEQ ID NO. **[[41]]39**);

(d) DGPKKKKKKSPSKSSK (SEQ ID NO. **[[43]]40**); and

(e) SKDGKKKKKKSKTK (SEQ ID NO. **[[45]]41**).

61. **(Currently amended)** The membrane localization reagent of claim 60, wherein the hydrophilic peptide binding element comprises GSSKSPSKKKKKKPGD (SEQ ID NO. **[[39]]38**).

62. (Previously presented) The membrane localization reagent of claim 53, wherein the lipophilic binding element comprises 8 to 18 methylene units.

63. (Previously presented) The membrane localization reagent of claim 62, wherein the lipophilic binding element comprises 10 to 14 methylene units.

65. (Previously presented) The membrane localization reagent of claim 63, wherein the lipophilic binding element comprises myristoyl.

66. (Previously presented) The membrane localization reagent according to claim 53, wherein the linker is selected from the group consisting of a cysteine residue; an N-haloacetyl group (where halo signifies chlorine, bromine or iodine); a haloacetyl group (where halo signifies chlorine, bromine or iodine) at an ε-amino group of a lysine residue; a bond; an amide group at the C-terminus; an N-terminal blocking group; and a fatty acid N-acyl group at the N-terminus or at an ε-amino group of a lysine residue.

67. (Previously presented) The membrane localization reagent according to claim 53, wherein the molecule is a therapeutic agent.

68. **(Currently amended)** A soluble compound that is directed to an outer membrane of a cell, wherein the soluble compound comprises:

(1) a therapeutic agent; and

(2) a membrane localization reagent, wherein the membrane localization reagent is soluble and comprises:

(a) **[[a]] at least one** lipophilic binding element comprising aliphatic acyl groups;

(c) a linker that covalently binds the therapeutic agent to the hydrophilic peptide binding element of the membrane localization reagent to form the soluble compound.

69. (Previously presented) The soluble compound of claim 68, wherein the hydrophilic peptide binding element comprises lysine residues.

70. (Previously presented) The soluble compound of claim 69, wherein the hydrophilic peptide binding element comprises three to ten lysine residues.

71. (Previously presented) The soluble compound of claim 70, wherein the hydrophilic peptide binding element comprises four to seven lysine residues.

72. (Previously presented) The soluble compound of claim 68, wherein the hydrophilic peptide binding element comprises arginine residues.

73. (Previously presented) The soluble compound of claim 72, wherein the hydrophilic peptide binding element comprises three to ten arginine residues.

74. (Previously presented) The soluble compound of claim 73, wherein the hydrophilic peptide binding element comprises four to seven arginine residues.

75. **(Currently amended)** The soluble compound of claim 68, wherein the hydrophilic peptide binding element is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) DGPKKKKKKSPSKSSG (SEQ ID NO 37);

(c) SPSNETPKKKKKRFSFKKS[[S]]G (SEQ ID NO. **[[41]]39**);

(d) DGPKKKKKKSPSKSSK (SEQ ID NO. **[[43]]40**); and

(e) SKDGKKKKKKSKTK (SEQ ID NO. **[[45]]41**).

76. **(Currently amended)** The soluble compound of claim 75, wherein the hydrophilic peptide binding element comprises GSSKSPSKKKKKKPGD (SEQ ID NO. **[[39]]38**).

77. (Previously presented) The soluble compound of claim 68, wherein the lipophilic binding element comprises 8 to 18 methylene units.

78. (Previously presented) The soluble compound of claim 77, wherein the lipophilic binding element comprises 10 to 14 methylene units.

79. (Previously presented) The soluble compound of claim 76, wherein the lipophilic binding element comprises myristoyl.

80. (Previously presented) The soluble compound of claim 78, wherein the lipophilic binding element comprises myristoyl.

81. (Previously presented) The soluble compound according to claim 68, wherein the linker is selected from the group consisting of a cysteine residue; an N-haloacetyl group (where halo signifies chlorine, bromine or iodine); a haloacetyl group (where halo signifies chlorine, bromine or iodine)

terminus; an N-terminal blocking group; and a fatty acid N-acyl group at the N-terminus or at an ε-amino group of a lysine residue.

82. (Previously presented) The soluble compound according to claim 68, wherein the therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of an antibody, a complement inhibitor, prourokinase, urokinase, protein C, interferon, leptin, IL-4, streptokinase, and tissue plasminogen activator.

83. (Previously presented) The soluble compound according to claim 68, wherein the therapeutic agent comprises Short Consensus Repeats 1-3 of Long Homologous Repeat A of Complement Receptor 1.

84. **(New)** A soluble derivative of a soluble polypeptide, wherein said derivative consisting of a conjugate or fusion of the polypeptide with a unit further consisting of two or more covalently linked heterologous membrane binding elements which elements are not all identical, which are capable of interacting independently with components of cellular or artificial membranes exposed to extracellular fluids and which are selected from the group consisting of:

a) a membrane-insertive hydrophobic group selected from aliphatic acyl groups with between 8 and 18 methylene units, aliphatic amines with between 8 and 18 methylene units, cholic acid and related bile salts such as chenodeoxycholic acid and glycocholic acid;

b) a membrane-associative charged peptide consisting of between 3 and 25 amino acids of which no less than 2 and no more than 12 are basic residues, preferably

e) a membrane component ligand further consisting of a peptide containing between 3 and 13 amino acids derived from known ligands for membrane components such as transmembrane proteins and identified by screening of chemical, bacteriophage, or other displayed libraries against specific membrane-derived molecular targets.